

The Mickel House
Near Miller
Lyon County
Kansas

HABS No. KANS-16

HABS
KANS
56-M.L.V.
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
120 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

"THE MICKEL HOUSE"

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1-

Street Address or Location: Near Miller, Lyon County, Kansas

Present Owner: Dr. Trimble, Emporia, Kansas

Present Occupant: Unoccupied

Present Use: None - abandoned

Brief Statement of Significance: This is a typical large frame house built in Kansas in Territorial times.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: W. L. Mickel
Dr. Trimble - since 1929
(Probably not a complete list, JPN)
2. Date of erection: about 1856 (Kansas State Historical Society, The Kansas Historical Quarterly, Summer 1957, Vol. XXIII, No. 2, Topeka, p. 152)
3. Architect, builder, suppliers, etc.: No information.
4. Original plans, construction etc.: None located.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: No information.
6. Important old views and references: None located.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

This structure (probably the oldest frame house still standing in Kansas) was built about 1856 by W.L. Mickel, who laid out the town of Waterloo in 1858. The house was a hotel for many years. It was on the Fort Leavenworth-Fort Sill government trail and served as a tavern and relay station for stages. (Kansas State Historical Society, The Kansas Historical Quarterly, Summer 1957 Vol. XXIII, No. 2, Topeka, Kansas, p. 152.)

C. Likely Sources Not yet investigated: None

D. Supplemental Material: None

Prepared by G. Noffenburg Date 7/58

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: This building is interesting not only because it is a very early example of frame house construction in Kansas but because the entire siding and trim is native walnut wood, oak being used for the studding.
2. Condition of Fabric: The building has been abandoned, the windows knocked out and is in a ruinous condition. It was last occupied in 1951.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Not taken.
2. Foundations: The foundations are native stone.
3. Wall construction: Wood frame. Oak studding and sawn laths. Walnut clapboarding appears never to have been painted.
4. Porches, stoops, bulkheads etc: Former porch at front door recently destroyed.
5. Chimneys: Two brick chimneys. The location is inside the end walls.
6. Openings
 - a. Doorways and Doors: Main (south) doorway has sidelights but not transom. The walnut door has two panels and is of pegged construction. (See photograph)
 - b. Windows and shutters: The walnut windows are of pegged construction and are sash type but none are intact. No shutters or indications of shutters were found.
7. Roof
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with modern asphalt shingle covering.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: A very simple cornice is used. This runs into a snow board on the end walls.
 - c. Dormers, cupolas; None.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor Plans: This is a central hall plan with a stairway in the hall. The original plan has certainly been modified. On the first floor on the west, one large room has been created and a door has been cut into the wall near the north. The rest of the house has been divided into a number of small rooms. The attic was partially floored.
2. Stairways: One hall stairway of simple design. Material is walnut.
3. Flooring: Original floors (undetermined wood) in poor condition.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls have been plastered and wall papered. The ceilings are beaded tongue and grove construction.
5. Doorways and doors: Interior doors and doorways are of a simple panelled construction in walnut.
6. Trim: Plain walnut trim.
7. Hardware: There does not seem to be much original hardware.
8. Lighting: No original lighting has been preserved.
9. Heating: Heating was by original fireplaces.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: On a farm enclosure, level ground, facing south.
2. Enclosures: None.
3. Outbuildings: Several frame farm buildings exist on the site.
4. Walks, driveways, etc: None.
5. Landscaping, gardens, etc: A few bushes and trees are on the lot.

Prepared by J. P. Hoffmann Date 7/58